

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

I.—AN INTERESTING TIGER SHOOT.

During my recent visit to Sirmur State, a shooting camp was arranged for me at Majra about twenty miles from Nahan, the Capital of the State.

A bait (*pada*) was killed on the night of May the 6th and I sat upon the machan at 5 p.m. next day. At 7-10 p.m. monkeys began chattering and the tiger appeared at 7-25 p.m. It was bowled over with a shot in the neck before it reached the kill. (Female, 7 ft. 11 in.). I sent a shikari early next morning to see what had happened to the bait and he reported that another tiger had eaten part of it, so I sat up at 6 p.m. and exactly the same performance as on the previous day was repeated, monkeys began chattering at 7-10 p.m. the crackling of twigs announced that the quarry was near, and the tiger appeared from a different direction at 7-25 p.m. and it was bowled over with a shot in the middle of its forehead as it put its head down to the kill. (Male 8 ft. 8 in.). I sent the shikari again early next morning to see the bait and he reported that another tiger had eaten part of it. Things were getting too good to be true, but I took a chance and sat up this time at 6-30 p.m. As soon as the monkeys began chattering at 8 p.m. I was on the *qui vive*, and ten minutes later the tiger showed itself and I tumbled him over with a shot in the same place and in the same manner as the second animal. (Male, 8 ft. 2½ in.). Just for curiosity, I once again sent the shikari early next morning to see the bait and he appeared all smiles to say a fourth animal had eaten practically all of it. As there were fresh pug marks, I sat up but it did not appear which I put down to there being nothing left of the bait.

In all my vast experience of big game shooting, I have never come across such an unique incident, and I wonder whether any person has been fortunate enough to have had such Shikari's luck to bag, three tigers, in three successive days, in three shots, from the same machan, on the same kill, and about the same time.

THE PALACE, PALITANA,
September 23, 1943.

BAHADURSINH,
Thakore Sahib of Palitana.

II.—A BLACK PANTHER SHOT IN SIND.

A fully grown male black panther was shot near Rerhi, a coastal fishing village about 18 miles S.-E. of Karachi, on the 4th April 1939.

Early in April the pi dogs of Bramhyderi, a large fishing village about 9 miles S.-E. of Karachi, began to disappear mysteriously. The villagers thinking that a hyaena was responsible organised a hunt and followed pug marks to a cave in a *nullah* in the low hills near Rerhi. Finding the hyaena, as they thought, 'at home',

a *mohana* of Bramhyderi named Suleiman volunteered to enter the cave with a light and a length of rope, a common practice in Sind, to catch the hyaena alive. On entering the cave Suleiman was badly mauled by the animal inside. He was taken to hospital but his wounds turned septic and he died of blood poisoning.

In the meanwhile a strong fishing net was placed over the mouth of the cave and information sent to the police station at Malir, about 6 miles away. On the arrival of the police, some *zamindars* and a horde of men armed to the teeth with guns, spears and clubs the animal was driven out of the cave and shot, speared and clubbed almost to pieces.

The cave contained besides many old bones the remains of a freshly killed pi dog.

The skin of the panther which was secured through the courtesy of Mr. Maqbul Khan, measured 6 feet 8 inches from tip of nose to end of tail, the tail measuring 2 feet 6 inches.

The skin which was seen by Captain Alec Salmon, H.L.I., shortly after it came into my possession in April 1939 is now with H. O. Wood of the Sind Police.

KARACHI,

July 20, 1943.

K. R. EATES,

Indian Police.

F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Note.—This, so far as I am aware, is the first record of a black panther occurring in Sind. According to Sind District Gazetteers, 21 panthers have been killed in Sind from 1896 to 1915, and all except 2 of these were killed in Karachi district. Since 1920 several panthers have been shot in the Pabh hills in Las Bela State about 30 miles from Karachi, the last 2 falling to the gun of G. Grosenbacher on the 24-12-36. As pi dogs were disappearing from Mangho Pir, about 10 miles north of Karachi in the direction of the Pabh hills, in March 1939, it is likely that this black panther was responsible and came from the Pabh hills, moving S.-E. through broken country to Rerhi where it was killed as related above. The occurrence of a black panther in Sind or even in the Pabh hills, where conditions in no way favour melanism, is most remarkable and indeed a rarity.

K. R. E.

III.—ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE YELLOW-HEADED FANTAIL WARBLER (*CISTICOLA EXILIS TYTLERI* JERDON) IN THE KUMAON TARAI, U.P.

The distribution of this species is given by Stuart Baker (*Nidif. Ind. Birds*, ii, 378) as 'from the Bhutan Dooars to Eastern Assam, Bengal, Manipur, Lushai, Chin and Kachin Hills to Yunnan from the foothills and plains up to about 2,500 feet.'

Lalkua (Kumaon district) is a junction in two senses: it is a railway junction 14 miles from the well-known rail-head of